



City of Milwaukee

Health Department

Tom Barrett
Mayor

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Commissioner of Health

Joe'Mar Hooper, MPA
Health Operations Administrator

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July 17, 2014

Paul Ruesch
U.S. EPA Region 5
Emergency Response Branch #2
77 West Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois USA 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Ruesch:

The Milwaukee Health Department, in review of the Site Assessment Report for the former Wisconsin Die Cast Facility at 201 W. Oklahoma Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, dated June 11, 2014, recognizes the site as an ongoing human health and environmental threat. These threats stem from the presence of several chemical contaminants that have been found to be present in bulk, on surfaces, in solid and liquid waste, and in groundwater and soil. These include RCRA-regulated metals, and known or likely human carcinogens: TCE, PCE, vinyl chloride, PCB's, PAH's, and asbestos.

Compounding the hazards are the fact that the building has had numerous break-ins and vandalism, including the stripping of asbestos-bearing insulation from pipes and the starting of fires. The structure of the building is also deteriorating with collapse of a section of the roof. The report presents evidence of migration of contaminants out of the building by trespasser's traffic.

For these reasons, the Milwaukee Health Department requests time-critical EPA Removal Assistance in remediating the property. The Milwaukee Health Department will continue to assist and coordinate with EPA and other agencies in surveillance, and public health messaging. If you have any questions or want to further discuss this request, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Biedrzycki, MPH, MBA
Director, Disease Control and Environmental Health
Adjunct Faculty at Zilber School of Public Health
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

cc. Karen Dettmer, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
Ryan Wozniak, Wisconsin Division of Public Health
James Kasdorf, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Think Health. Act Now!

